

How to use this worksheet. Thirty questions, about 20 minutes, with the answer key at the end. Read the **rest of the sentence first** and work out what meaning is needed before looking at the idioms.

Formula sheet

A small set of idioms recurs across AAI shifts: led up the garden path, show the ropes, take a leaf out of someone's book, hold the fort, hold the reins, see red, pay through the nose

In fit-the-context questions the other half of the sentence tells you the required meaning

Contrast words such as but reverse the expected sense | sometimes the tense, not the meaning, decides the answer

Section A · Level 1 — Common idioms and their meanings

Ten questions. Never read an idiom literally.

1. Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.

To let the cat out of the bag

- (1) To lose something (2) To reveal a secret (3) To make a mistake (4) To act cruelly

2. Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.

A blessing in disguise

- (1) A hidden danger (2) Something bad that turns out to be good (3) A false promise (4) An unexpected gift

3. Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.

Once in a blue moon

- (1) Very often (2) Very rarely (3) Never (4) Every month

4. Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.

To burn the midnight oil

- (1) To waste money (2) To work late into the night (3) To start a fire (4) To sleep early

5. Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.

To turn a deaf ear

- (1) To listen carefully (2) To refuse to listen (3) To become deaf (4) To speak loudly

6. Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.

To break the ice

- (1) To start a quarrel (2) To begin a conversation (3) To end a friendship (4) To cool down

7. Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.

A wild goose chase

- (1) A successful hunt (2) A futile search (3) A long journey (4) A clever plan

8. Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.

To smell a rat

- (1) To find something dirty (2) To suspect something wrong (3) To be very hungry (4) To lose one's temper

9. Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.

At the eleventh hour

- (1) Very early (2) At the last moment (3) Exactly at eleven (4) Too late

10. Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.

To make both ends meet

- (1) To travel widely (2) To manage on a limited income (3) To finish a task (4) To join two things

Working space — Questions 1 to 10*Write the formula before you substitute.***Section B · Level 2 — The idioms the AAI paper reuses***Ten questions. These exact idioms recur across shifts.***11.** Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.

To hold the fort

- (1) To attack a place (2) To take charge in someone's absence (3) To build a wall (4) To surrender

12. Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.

To pay through the nose

- (1) To pay very little (2) To pay far too much (3) To refuse to pay (4) To pay in instalments

13. Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.

To see red

- (1) To feel embarrassed (2) To become very angry (3) To be in danger (4) To feel unwell

14. Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.

To turn over a new leaf

- (1) To read a book (2) To begin behaving better (3) To change jobs (4) To move house

15. Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.

To take a leaf out of someone's book

- (1) To steal from someone (2) To follow someone's example (3) To criticise someone (4) To borrow a book

16. Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.

To lead someone up the garden path

- (1) To guide someone (2) To deceive or mislead someone (3) To show someone a garden (4) To walk slowly

17. Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.

To show someone the ropes

- (1) To tie something (2) To teach a newcomer how things are done (3) To punish someone (4) To sell equipment

18. Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.

To hold the reins

- (1) To ride a horse (2) To be in control (3) To wait patiently (4) To give up

19. Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.

All hell broke loose

- (1) Everything went quiet (2) Chaos suddenly erupted (3) A fire started (4) Everyone left

20. Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.

To catch someone's eye

- (1) To injure someone (2) To attract someone's attention (3) To stare rudely (4) To watch closely

Working space — Questions 11 to 20*Write the formula before you substitute.***Section C · Previous year questions — Straight from the AAI ATC papers**

Ten questions. Every one is a real previous year question.

21. Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.

Bite the bullet [PYQ 2025 · Shift 1]

(1) Doing something in an easier and least expensive manner (2) Finish something no matter how unsatisfying or unpleasant it is (3) Stuck in a difficult circumstance with no escape (4) Doing something that has never been done before

22. Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.

Cold feet [PYQ 2025 · Shift 1]

(1) Becoming nervous (2) To have patience (3) Not feeling good (4) Going to sleep

23. Identify the option in which the idiom correctly fits the context. [PYQ 2021 · Shift 3]

(1) In mystery tales, the readers pay through the nose. (2) In mystery tales, the readers take a leaf out of someone's book. (3) In mystery tales, the readers are often led up the garden path. (4) In mystery tales, the readers often hold the fort.

24. Identify the option in which the idiom correctly fits the context. [PYQ 2021 · Shift 3]

(1) Jack has been here for years – he'll get something off. (2) Jack has been here for years – he'll see red. (3) Jack has been here for years – he'll show you the ropes. (4) Jack has been here for years – he'll turn over a new leaf.

25. Identify the option in which the proverb correctly fits the context. [PYQ 2021 · Shift 3]

(1) He believes the average consumer sees red by the promises in advertisements. (2) He believes the average consumer is being led down the garden path by the promises in advertisements. (3) He believes the average consumer is made to pay through their nose by the promises in advertisements. (4) He believes the average consumer holds the fort by the promises in advertisements.

26. Identify the option in which the idiom correctly fits the context. [PYQ 2023 · Evening]

(1) Maybe, I should get something off Rick's chest and start coming early every morning. (2) Maybe, I should take a leaf out of Rick's book and start coming early every morning. (3) Maybe, I should hold the fort for Rick and start coming early every morning. (4) Maybe, I should take something to Rick and start coming early every morning.

27. Identify the option in which the idiom correctly fits the context. [PYQ 2023 · Evening]

(1) She is the boss, but her secretary seems to see red. (2) She is the boss, but her secretary seems to pay through the nose. (3) She is the boss, but her secretary seems to lead down. (4) She is the boss, but her secretary seems to hold the reins.

28. Select the most appropriate phrase to fill in the blank.

Anil wanted to make up with Shikha after the argument, so at the party he tried desperately _____ but she chose to ignore him. [PYQ 2021 · Shift 2]

(1) keep an eye on her (2) to catch her eye (3) set eyes on her (4) cast an eye upon her

29. Select the most appropriate idiom to fill in the blank.

As soon as the decision to raise the price of petrol and diesel was announced, _____ in the Parliament. [PYQ 2021 · Shift 2]

(1) all hell will have broken loose (2) all hell is going to break loose (3) all hell will be let loose (4) all hell broke loose

30. What does the phrase lay two to one mean?

"...will lay two to one on the number 666 against any other number..." [PYQ 2023 · Morning]

(1) To place a bet (2) To spend more than one's income (3) To reduce the speed (4) To regret doing something

Working space — Questions 21 to 30

Write the formula before you substitute.

Answer key

Check only after you have attempted every question. Full worked solutions for each one are on the worksheet page at aviatelearnings.com.

1. (2)	7. (2)	13. (2)	19. (2)	25. (2)
2. (2)	8. (2)	14. (2)	20. (2)	26. (2)
3. (2)	9. (2)	15. (2)	21. (2)	27. (4)
4. (2)	10. (2)	16. (2)	22. (1)	28. (2)
5. (2)	11. (2)	17. (2)	23. (3)	29. (4)
6. (2)	12. (2)	18. (2)	24. (3)	30. (1)

Stuck on any of these? Bring them to a live class.

Live online batches and 1-on-1 mentoring for AAI ATC Junior Executive — the full Class 11 and 12 physics and maths syllabus taught straight from the real question papers. Fees are kept deliberately low so any serious aspirant can join.

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